

Principles of Threat Assessment;

Please note, all threats are unique and should be handled specific to the threat received and the needs of the facility.

Data/Intelligence Collection

- Familiarize staff with threat protocols (phoned, verbal, written, email, suspicious items). Bomb threat checklist should be near primary receiving telephone.
- Implement anonymous reporting systems for students. Promote this system frequently after receiving a threat as a means to collect information.
- Remind staff, students, and community of the “if you see something, say something” initiative.
- Organize student safety groups to identify trends or ongoing concerns. Student involvement groups will give voice to students, and improve parent perception of safety within the school.

Target Hardening

- Implement access control capabilities.
- Empower front office staff to refuse entry and notify law enforcement and administrator.
- Highlight partnerships with local law enforcement, Homeland Security, and State Police.
- Increase visibility of law enforcement, especially during public high traffic times (morning and afternoon).

Counter Measures

- Train staff with respect to safety protocols.
- Communicate clearly with students and parents regarding reasons for data collection and target hardening. Students and parents should get information from the school before social media or news outlets.
- Remind students and parents to use social media responsibly (unnecessary posts or comments will incite further threats and possibly make investigation more difficult).
- Increase security if warranted. This could include limiting backpacks, random metal detection, and presence of k-9.
- Proactive policing, including “knock and talk” with possible suspects.
- Do not reward offender. Schedule make-up days for any time missed out of school.
- Publicize prosecution of offenders. Petition the court to require offender to pay restitution to the school corporation for funds loss (cost of make-up days, meals potentially unused, law enforcement response).

Consistency

- Any announced action must include follow through. Do not announce a policy (random searches, improved access control), then not enact it. Failure to enact policies sends a wrong message and reduces public confidence.
- In reaction to a threat, consideration should be given to enact policies corporation wide rather than school specific. Parents often have children at multiple levels (HS, MS, Elem), and will legitimately question why safety policies are enacted at one school and not the other.
- Frequent and consistent messaging of safety are likely necessary if threats continue.